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March 6, 2017

Utah Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
Utah Department of Health, Division of Medicaid and Health Financing
288 North 1460 West
PO Box 143102
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3102

Dear Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee,

I am writing this letter in order to encourage you to maintain an open Utah Medicaid Formulary for antiretroviral (ARV) medications. HIV continues to be an important public health concern both nationally and within the state of Utah. According to data from the CDC 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV. It is estimated by the CDC that from 2005 to 2014 the annual number of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. has declined by 19%. We have not seen such a decline in Utah. This national decline in the number of new cases is likely due to a combination of improved access to health care services and to highly effective and convenient antiretroviral therapy.

Newer ARV combination therapies allow individuals to be treated with single tablet regimens which enable greatly improved adherence. These single table regimens are endorsed by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines. With HIV, unlike many other chronic illnesses, "treatment is prevention". Individuals with suppressed viral loads are very unlikely to transmit the virus to uninfected individuals. Breaking the cycle of transmission by enabling more individuals with HIV to be diagnosed and effectively treated is a crucial public health strategy.

As the leader of the system-wide Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee at Intermountain Healthcare I can state unequivocally that we maintain an open formulary for ARV medications at Intermountain Healthcare hospitals. In a similar manner, our affiliated insurance product, Select Health also makes all ARV medications available on all of its insurance products without requirements for step therapy. For Select Health members, generic ARVs are covered as Tier One with a small co-pay and other ARVs are covered as Tier 2 or Tier 3 with somewhat higher copays (see attached document).

We believe that maintaining an open formulary is the right thing to do for the population we serve in order to achieve our mission of helping people live the healthiest lives possible.

I plan to attend your meetings on March 16 and April 20 but please feel free to contact me sooner with any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas L. Smith" followed by a small flourish.

Douglas L. Smith, MD, FACP
Associate Chief Medical Officer
Intermountain Healthcare
Phone: 801.442.3750

Drug	Tier (UM)
emtricitabine/tenofovir (Truvada)	2 (QL)
abacavir/dolutegravir/lamivudine (Triumeq)	2 (QL)
efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir (Atripla)	3 (QL)
dolutegravir (Tivicay)	2 (QL)
ritonavir (Norvir)	2 (QL)
cobicistat/elvitegravir/emtricitabine/TAF (Genvoya)	2 (QL)
raltegravir (Isentress)	3 (QL)
tenofovir (Viread)	2 (QL)
darunavir (Prezista)	2 (QL)
cobicistat/elvitegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir (Stribild)	2 (QL)
atazanavir (Reyataz)	3 (QL)
abacavir/lamivudine (Epzicom)	2 (QL)
emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir (Complera)	3 (QL)
emtricitabine/TAF (Descovy)	2 (QL)
lamivudine	1 (QL)
lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra)	3 (QL)
nevirapine	1 (QL)
lamivudine/zidovudine	1 (QL)
abacavir	1 (QL)
efavirenz (Sustiva)	3 (QL)
emtricitabine/rilpivirine/TAF (Odefsey)	3 (QL)
darunavir/cobicistat (Prezcobix)	3 (QL)
etravirine (Intelence)	3 (QL)
maraviroc (Selzentry)	3 (QL)
rilpivirine (Edurant)	3 (QL)
indinavir (Crixivan)	3 (QL)
fosamprenavir (Lexiva)	3 (QL)
lamivudine/zidovudine (Combivir)	3 (QL)
stavudine	1 (QL)
lamivudine	1 (QL)